

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5152

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FOR COMMERCE

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRN, ETRD, RP

SUBJ: MANILA MASS TRANSIT SYSTEM UNDER STUDY

REF STATE 087294

1. ACCORDING OFFICIAL PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT, PRESIDENT MARCOS IN APRIL APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE THREE- PHASE MASS TRANSIT RAIL SYSTEM FOR METROPOLITAN MANILA. MASS TRANSIT RAIL SYSTEM WAS RECOMMENDED BY PHILIPPINE NATIONAL RAILWAYS (PNR) AND PREVIOUSLY HAD BEEN APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE BY NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (NEDA).

2. PNR HAS PUBLISHED PRE- INVESTMENT STUDY WHICH STATES THAT TOTAL INVESTMENT REQUIRED IS PESOS 70.3 MILLION PLUS FOREIGN EXCHANGE COMPONENT OF \$24.25 MILLION. ACCORDING TO STUDY, RAIL PROJECT WILL BE UNDERTAKEN IN THREE PHASES:

A. PHASE I (ALREADY UNDERWAY AND TO BE COMPLETED BY DECEMBER 1973). DAILY CARRYING CAPACITY TO BE INCREASED FROM 4,200 TO 12,500 PASSENGERS THROUGH: 1) CONVERSION OF 14 DIESEL CARS TO COMMUTER PATTERN (8 ARE ALREADY IN OPERATION AND 6 MORE WILL BE CONVERTED); 2) DELIVERY OF 10 NEW DIESEL CARS FROM JAPAN; 3) CONSTRUCTION OF CROSSING

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SIDINGS AT SUITABLE LOCATIONS; 4) PARTIAL PROVISION OF SEMI- AUTOMATIC BLOCK SIGNALLING FACILITIES; 5) REHABILITATION OF STA. MESA- HULO LINE; 6) PASSENGER AMENITIES AT DIFFERENT STATIONS; NOTE: THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PHASE I HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FROM 17 TH YEAR REPARATION FUNDS (JAPAN) AND FROM REHABILITATION FUNDS.

B. PHASE II (DECEMBER 1973- JUNE 1974). CARRYING CAPACITY TO BE INCREASED TO 25,000 PASSENGERS PER DAY BY: 1) COMPLETION OF SEMI- AUTOMATIC BLOCK SIGNALLING FACILITIES ON THE CALOOCAN/ MANILA- CARMONA AND STA. MESA- HULO STATIONS; 2) DELIVERY OF 30 DIESEL COMMUTER CARS; 3) EXTENSION OF THE STA. MESA- HULO LINE. NOTE: POSSIBLE FINANCING FROM THE JAPANESE OVERSEAS ECONOMIC COOPERATION FUND.

C. PHASE III (JUNE 1974- DECEMBER 1977).
STATE 1 - CARRYING CAPACITY TO BE INCREASED TO 50,000 PASSENGERS PER DAY BY DECEMBER 1975: 1) DOUBLE TRACK BETWEEN MALOLOS AND CALOOCAN (32 KMS) AND PACO- SAN PEDRO LAGUNA (26 KMS); 2) AUTOMATIC BLOCK SIGNALLING FACILITIES ON MALOLOS- TUTUBAN- CARMONA AND STA. MESA- HIGHWAY 54 SECTIONS; 3) ADDITIONAL MAINTENANCE FACILITIES FOR DIESEL COMMUTER CARS; 5) IMPROVEMENTS IN PASSENGER AMENITIES.

STAGE 2 - CARRYING CAPACITY TO BE INCREASED TO 75,000 PASSENGERS PER DAY BY DECEMBER 1976 THROUGH: 1) STRENGTHENING OF EXISTING TRACK AND BRIDGES TO CATER TO HIGH INTENSITY TRAFFIC; 2) PURCHASE AND DELIVERY OF 35 DIESEL COMMUTER CARS.

STATE 3 - CARRYING CAPACITY TO BE INCREASED TO 150,000 PASSENGERS PER DAY BY DECEMBER 1977 BY: 1) PURCHASE AND DELIVERY OF 84 DIESEL COMMUTER CARS. NOTE: STAGES 1, 2 AND 3 OF PHASE III WILL PROBABLY BE FINANCED BY OUTSIDE LENDING AGENCIES SUCH AS EXIM BANK OR THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK.

3. STUDY NOTES THAT EXPANSION UP TO 750,000 PASSENGERS PER DAY IS POSSIBLE WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF ELECTRIC TRAINS THAT HAVE HIGH ACCELERATION/ DECELERATION CAPABILITY REQUIRED FOR THE HIGHER FREQUENCY OF OPERATION.

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4. JAPANESE ARE ALSO PREPARING REPORT ON METRO- MANILA TRANSPORTATION NEEDS. SUMMARY OF DRAFT JAPANESE REPORT CONTAINED IN PNR STUDY. FORESEES POSSIBLE INTEGRATION OF TRANSPORTATION MODES WITH RAIL PREDOMINATING IN OUTER AREAS AND SUBWAY OR MONORAIL USED IN INNER AREA TO SUPPLEMENT BUSES.

5. COPIES PNR STUDY WILL BE TRANSMITTED BY AIRGRAM.
HAMILTON

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